

**Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation
March 20, 2013**

**NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health
Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch**

Per NC General Statutes: 20-16.2(a), 20-38.5 and 20-139.1 sections (a), (b1), (b2), (b6), (c1), (c4) and (e1) and 10A NCAC 41B the Forensic Tests for Alcohol (FTA) Branch is the state agency designated to provide the following:

- Train approximately 3,000 law enforcement officers annually and issue permits giving them authority to conduct tests using the Intox EC/IR II on individuals charged with Driving While Impaired (DWI).
- Perform mandated preventive maintenance on 369 evidential instruments located at sites throughout North Carolina.

The FTA Branch also provides the following:

- 40 Drug Recognition Experts trained annually in two two-week courses
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training to law enforcement officers
- Other specialized training on impaired drivers provided to law enforcement officers, judges, magistrates, and state prosecutors
- DWI Checking Stations utilizing Breath Alcohol Testing Mobile Units, or “BAT Mobile Units”
 - October 1996 through March 2013 - 14,045 DWI arrests, 97,273 traffic violations, 12,945 criminal charges, 684 educational events
 - January through December 2012 - 1,313 DWI arrests, 6,983 traffic violations, 1,152 criminal charges, 36 educational events

The FTA program is currently staffed with 29 full time employees, approximately one third of which are funded by the Department of Transportation transfer of funds.